

ALAN WATTS
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June 20th 1963

Dr. Humphrey Osmond,
N. J. Psychiatric Institute,
Box 1000,
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Humphrey:

Many thanks indeed for your most interesting and somewhat alarming letter. I had already heard something of the same kind about this particular batch of LSD from Myron Stolaroff, who was assuming either that it was stable, or that it contained other drugs as well, having unpredictable effects.

The presumed history of this material is that it was made by a certain Bernie Roseman, who was arrested by Customs officials while trying to sell some of it in San Francisco. The "buyer" was a federal man in disguise, and he was charged with importing it illegally from Israel. But now he claims that he made it himself, and, if so, I can't imagine that he had anything very adequate in the way of a laboratory. What you have seen (in the rubber sealed bottles) is apparently the dilution of a brown sticky substance. I have all this from Stolaroff.

It seems to me (1) that concerned authorities should get after Roseman and find out just how he did it, and (2) that the sooner we get a report from Hoffman the better. Until then we have only rumors and speculations.

And until then I'm afraid it will be very difficult to persuade Tim and others that the doubts about this material are not the beginnings of a religious syndrome, analogous to the idea that only those ordained in the Apostolic Succession can consecrate a valid Mass, with truly transubstantiated bread and wine!

Will you please let me know when you get any definite word from Hoffman, or from any other competent analyst. In the meantime, I have passed on your warnings to Oscar Janiger and several other medics in the area who are liable to run into people using this material.

All good wishes, and very many thanks,

Sincerely,

Tim: I thought you should see this, just to be "all current" Alan.